



USDA Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region Motorized Recreation Program

**Report to California State Parks OHV Commission
November 15, 2013
Borrego Springs, CA**

Discussion Topics

OHV Grant Funds & Permitted Special Events

A question was raised asking whether funds provided to the Forest Service can be directed to OHV events held under a special use permit.

Many Forests utilize the Law Enforcement funds they receive to provide Law Enforcement Officers and Forest Protection Officer oversight to assist the day an OHV event is held. A Forest has the responsibility to balance and prioritize the funds they receive and ensure their expenditures adhere to the specific project descriptions. There may be additional examples that are available where funds can be utilized upon further exploration. Keep in mind most events held under a special use event are typically commercial in nature and therefore some limitations due to exist.

Motor Vehicle Use Map Seasons of Use

The motor vehicle use map indicates which roads, trails and areas are designated for use by a particular motor vehicle class and the time of year the use can occur. The seasons of use can be affected by

- 1.) Species – Example Wildlife or Plants**
- 2.) Weather – Rain or Snow**

Many forests during their analysis determined their designations needed to include time of year (seasonal use of some roads, trails, and/or areas).

All designations, including season of use, can be revised to meet changing conditions. These revisions to the designations are subject to the same process and analysis as the original designations. **(Refer to 36 CFR 212.54)**

Weather related seasons of use were determined using factors like elevation, soil type, annual precipitation, and maintenance needs. Although historical data was used weather patterns are unpredictable in any given year. Although date ranges are the current tool available it is recognized that no methodology is perfect. As an attempt to improve our ability to determine seasons of use and address access desires the regional office has a current grant project under contract (R.J. Poff & Associates) to help

develop a “Wet Weather Strategy” to improve management of OHV use on roads, trails and areas.

Ranger Ride – Mendocino National Forest Service

On October 29 thru October 31 Don Amador of Blue Ribbon Coalition reintroduced the Ranger Ride to the Fouts Springs Area of the Mendocino National Forest. In the past the Ranger Ride was sponsored by Blue Ribbon Coalition, After Market Manufacturers, Industry, the OHMVR Division, and the Forest Service.

The ride has traditionally been used as a way to bring agency OHV Managers, agency decision makers, Law Enforcement, and OHV enthusiasts together in a field setting (camping via trailer or tent) for training, education, trail riding, debate and discussion.

As budgets declined and issues increased the Ranger Ride was on hiatus. Determined to continue to make positive change in the OHV program Don Amador resurrected this valuable tool in collaboration with the Forest Service

Although the turnout was low due as federal agency workers returned to work, the ride was a huge success. There were representatives from BLM, the OHV Division, Forest Service, CCC, and the OHV Community.

It cannot be emphasized enough the importance to regain the collaborative spirit and willingness to work together on OHV Management issues. There will not always be agreement however there can always be willingness to listen and work together to find solutions.

Although I could only attend one day It was a great time! Next year's ride promises to be better than this year and I look forward to Don's continued collaboration and enthusiasm regarding recreation on Public Lands,

Cleveland National Forest (To Be Determined)

- **Program Presentation**

The topics included in this report are the result of discussions between the California State Parks OHV Commission Chair Person and the U.S. Forest Service, and/or information relevant to U.S. Forest Service current events that may promote or affect OHV Recreation.

If there are items of interest you would like the USFS to discuss in future meetings that you feel would benefit the knowledge or understand of the OHV Commission, the OHV Division, interested parties, or the statewide program on Forest Service Lands please contact: United States Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, Trails, Motorized Recreation & Travel Management Planning Lead – Kathleen Mick at kmick@fs.fed.us or 707-562-8859.